

Northwest Iowa Contracting Consortium

Member Counties: Cherokee, Clay, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury

- ✚ Formed in 1999 to provide a mechanism for multi-county contract formation and negotiation for member counties.
- ✚ Formal 28E agreement signed and filed in 2000. The agreement states “because of a desire to contract with providers of mental health, intellectual disabilities, and developmental disabilities as a single entity in order to save county and provider resources and establish a consistent rate setting process and contract review process”.
- ✚ Governed by a 9 member board consisting of a Board of Supervisor representative from each of the participating counties as well as formal by-laws, policies and procedures.
- ✚ The NICC Board meets on a quarterly basis to review any current issues. The Board meets annually to approve the rates established by the negotiation process.
- ✚ Board members and advisory members (providers and CPCs) form 2 negotiation teams which meet in December of every year to review rate requests from provider and give the providers opportunity to keep the Consortium informed of current operating circumstances. This happens even when state funding is limited and no rate increases were approved for any given year. New contracts are issued every 3 years, with rate addendums approved on a yearly basis.
- ✚ A permanent file is maintained for all providers covered by a Consortium contract.
- ✚ The Consortium uses Cherokee County as their fiscal agent, and is subject to the auditing procedures of that county.
- ✚ Our Consortium providers are now required to utilize the CRIS(County Rate Information System) reporting format for financial and statistical reporting.

The NICC Board is exploring additional options to incorporate regional service planning and funding, however, currently participating counties continue to utilize their individual plans with separate mental health funds. The working relationships reinforced by the NICC between Boards of Supervisors, providers and CPCs provide avenues of communication resulting in efficient and effective access to services for our county residents.